Seasonable and Honest

ADVICE

TO THE

Nobility, Clergy, Gentry, Souldiery,

And other the

King's Subjects,

UPON THE

INVASION

Of His HIGHNES the

Prince of Orange.

To the Nobility.

MY LORDS,

IT is from the Royal Bounty that you derive your Preeminence, Dignity and Titles, and at least from the protection of the Crown, that you enjoy your splendid Fortunes. The Founders of your Families received them as Rewards of their Prowess, or other signal Services to our Kings; so that there lies an irrevocable Obligation upon your Lordships, to support that Crown which circled your Heads with Coronets, and to use that Sword for the defence of the King, who Himself or His Ancestors girt you or your Noble Progenitors with it. And as you inherit their Titles and Estates, so it is your duty, and will be your glory, to imitate their Practices in true Zeal and Loyalty to your lawful Sovereign.

Think with your selves when you view the magnificent Tombs of your Illustrious Fore-fathers, and read their mighty Deeds recorded in our Annals, that they admonish and excite your Duty: By that means you will preserve your Blood untainted, and transmit it such to your Posterity.

If your Lordships vouchsafe to peruse our Chronicles, you will easily find, not only what blemishing Characters are transmitted to us of such who have been Factious or Rebellious against the Crown, but likewise how unfortunate they have been in such Undertakings.

We have fresh Memorials of the unhappy Conduct of Noble Peers in the Reign of King *Charles* the First, who, wrought upon by malevolent Designers, to espouse the pretended Cause, the Defence of the Protestant Religion, Liberty and Property, brought upon us a Civil War, with all the unexpressible concomitants of bloodshed, Ruin and Devastation, that might astonish us to this day to remember. There was scarce a Family out of which one or other dear Relation was not cut off with the Edge of the Sword, scarce a Cottage that escaped Plunder, no corner of a County that had not some Skirmish or Battel in it; in which all degrees of Men, and all sorts of Religions, at one time or other, shared in the common Ruin.

The Declarations, Remonstrances and Addresses of the pretenders, to reform and redress Grievances, were every whit as specious as this of the Prince of *Orange*, yet ere the War was ended, the first undertakers had the Sword wrested out of their hands, and after the slaughter of so many brave Men, and the ruine of so many ancient Families; we fought the Nobility into the State of Commoners, the Freemen of *England* into a Slavery to every common Trooper, the Monarchy into a Common-Wealth, and Episcopal Government into Presbytery, and that into Independency, and no Man knows how many spawned Sects; and all our Laws into the Arbitrary Wills of Usurpers.

Is it not sufficiently known, that all this Misery might have been prevented? If some Noble Lords of that Age had stuck close to the Crown and their Allegiance, and confided in the Kings gracious Declarations, and had not instigated the People to Rebellion.

There is now something a new Scene opened, yet the sacred Names of Religion, Liberty and Property, are still pretended; only we have a sort of the unlikelieſt Instruments, that some Bigotted Creatures would stile our Deliverers, that ever undertook a just Regulation, for the good of the Publick.

A Prince who having well nigh enslaved his own States, is come to fight us into Liberty; one who without any shadow of title, or any just Provocation, designs to dethrone our lawful Sovereign, his Unkle, and Father of his Princess, comes to be the Conservator of our Laws; one, who when he had the signed Treaty of Peace in his hands, could kill some thousands at *Mons*, comes to be trusted on his word, that he will not claim the Crown; one who would load our Sovereign and the Queen with the most odious of all Crimes, such as the most profligate and flagitious can scarce be guilty of, to substitute an Imposture and suppositious Prince to succeed in the Royal Throne, comes to be the Preserver of our Birth-rights. Can he who publisheth to the World, that some of your Order are Traytors to the King, by inviting him to this Invasion, which in as

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many of you as know he fally traduceth you, must raise the highest Indignation against him, obtain of you a belief of his Candor or Veracity?

I might design the Antitype further, but out of respect to that Blood which should run in his Veins, I must cover the rest with the Vail of a daring Ambition, and only suggest to your Lordships as Persons of Honour, that since you owe no Allegiance to any Foreign Power, and that you know that no King ever Reigned who had a more indisputable Right to his Crown, than our King hath; you will with a just Indignation reject all the Overtures he shall make to enslave your King or you, and give no more credit to the most colourable of his Pretences, than you would do to one who under pretence of coming to give you a courteous Visit, designed to cut your Throat.

Let us now consider what Tools he brings with him to effect this glorious Preservation of our Religion and Liberties.

Can we expect that mercenary Souldiers of Fortune, such as neither know our Language, Laws, Custom or Religion, nor ever knew so much as the Character of an *English* Freeman, and have been bred up from their first Enrollment, to Plunder and Rapine, will be the Guardians of our Properties, Laws or Religion, or come for any other End but Conquest?

Can any be of such prostitute belief, as to think your Lordships can preserve your Honours, your Estates, or your Religion, by renouncing your Allegiance? Tho there are some few of your Order, whose Characters are so well known, that it would be no *Scandalum Magnatum* to expose them; yet I doubt not, but there remains very many of your Lordships, who do judge the best security for the Protestant Religion, is to adhere firmly to the King, as indispensibly thereto bound by the Laws of God, of the Church, and of our Native Country.

Those who are desirous to entail a War, even of the cruellest kind, upon their Posterity; those who will not think their Religion safe, till *Swedes*, *Germans* and *Dutch*, have over-run this Island, and enslaved us; those who think it more pleasing to God, that our Fields should be spread with the Carcasses of our slain neareſt Relations, than that a Popish Chapel should be standing, or Liberty to Dissenters be allowed; those who had rather see their just and merciful King dethroned and murthered, and the *Dutch* establish their Hogen mogenship here, than that a Papist should live amongst them, may rush headlong into confusion and ruin.

But if your Lordships, with your Relations, Tenants and Dependants, chearfully flock to the Royal Standard, all this threatning Calamity will be prevented; and the King, your selves, and the whole Kingdom will be rescued from all these Miseries, an Invasion or Civil War would overwhelm us with

To the Reverend Clergy.

ALtho your Religion and the Liberty of your Consciences be precious to you, yet I hope you that experimentally know how firmly Protestantism is rooted in the Souls of the People, can have no colour of necessity to call in Foreigners to secure it. Had you been commanded to abjure your Religion or your Country, you might have had some pretence to have solicited some Protestant Prince to have sheltered and protected you; tho even in that case, you cannot be so far ignorant of your Duty as Christians and Subjects, much more as Rulers, Guides, and Pastors of the Church of *England*, as not to know, that promoting, countenancing, or abetting any Invadors of the Dominions of your lawful Sovereign, or rebelling against him, is directly contrary to your Natural Allegiance, and to the Principles and Practice of the Church of *England*.

It is not long since it was enacted, that every one that had any Ecclesiastical Function or Dignity, that were Fellows of Colledges, Chaplains, Tutors or School-masters, should subscribe this following Declaration: *I A. B. Do declare, That it is not lawful upon any pretence whatsoever, to take Arms against the King, and that I do abhor that trayterous Position of taking Arms by his Authority against his Person.*

Surely, if this was good Law then, it ought to be good Doctrin now; and neither the Prince of *Orange* nor any other Prince of Christendom, can give any Man authority to take Arms against the King.

Some therefore judge it inconsistent with the Duty of the Spiritual Lords, to deny the publication of this Doctrin, when the Prince of *Orange* declares to the World, that some of them invited him to undertake this unjust Invasion?

This refusal will give occasion to the enemies of our Church to say, That the Clergy of late shewed a Courage beyond Expectation, to say no more, in denying to Publish the King's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, and ought not now to be so timorous of offending the Prince of *Orange*, as not to speak and publish Truth, when some of them are in such direct terms declared by himself, his Complices and Abettors? It seems to them that the King must be served with Negatives, and the Doctrine of Non-Resistance is dwindled to that of Non-Obedience; and we already hear them upbraid us thus.

Doth this look like the Practice of the old *English* Hierarchy, or the ancient Doctrine of the Fathers of our Church, that have taught, according to God's Word, all her Sons Obedience to the King as Supream, for Conscience sake; especially when no more is required than the declaring the Articles of that Church you profess your selves the Heads of, and to answer Categorically to the Impeachment the Prince of *Orange* hath published against you.

Those who are afraid to lose with the People their Reputations of being zealous Protestants, must think with themselves, that they are likewise to preserve their Reputation with God and the World, in being Loyal Subjects and Members,

bers, or Overseers of that Church, whereof, never any before them for fear of Threats or Sufferings, denied their Allegiance.

You know how the generality of your Order have stood by the Crown in the Reigns of his Majesties Royal Father and Brother. The Person it is true is changed, but the Regal Dignity, and your Obligation of being our present Gracious Sovereign's Liege-People, is the same.

While you apprehended the Protestant Religion, or Church of *England* was in danger, there were few Sermons preached, wherein either the whole Discourse was not upon some Head of Controversie betwixt the Church of *Rome* or Dissenters, and the Church of *England*, or else in which some remarkable Reflections were not made upon them; yet the goodness of the King was such, that the managing of this was neither prohibited in the Press or Pulpit.

But you could not but observe, that as that way of preaching sufficiently maintained the warmth and zeal of your Auditors to the Protestant Religion, and raised even an abhorrence of the Romish: So it operated further than I hope you designed it, even to estrange the Affections of the People from the Person of the King and his Government, and occasioned all those Hardships you complained of, and by consequence hath encouraged this present Invasion.

Now therefore that you find your Religion to secure, and that the King hath removed all things that might ever put it into danger: I humbly conceive, and verily hope, that you will consider the Inconveniences of that Method, and with as much zeal declaim against such as will not distinguish betwixt their desire to preserve their Religion, and the unjustifiable Methods of securing it, by rebelling and countenancing this Invasion.

You all know how ready the King is, and ever hath been, to gratifie such as discovered any Zeal for his Service; and it was some Persons unseasonable Obstinacy or Disrespect, that caused the King to withdraw some of his Favors from them: But the fresh instance of the great Reward given to the Bishop of *Exeter* for his late seasonable Loyalty, is a sufficient Testimony, that Loyalty to the King can never miss of a Recompence.

It is not to such as do their Duty at this time I address this Discourse, Heaven will bless them, and After-ages will testifie that they were true Sons of a Loyal Church; it is to the Factious, Short-sighted, or Infected, I apply my self at present.

You know the utmost Aims of our Gracious Sovereign is to obtain an Establishment of Liberty of Conscience, and lest the Church of *England* should be jealous that it would be a diminution to it, the King hath always been willing it should be secured by the same Act of Parliament, and I think, no Person can believe that the Church of *England* is likely to be better secured by those Invaders, than by the King, and a Church of *England* Parliament, which the King will convene, though now it is unpracticable.

You that have an affection for the Church of *England*, cannot but reflect what quarter you are to expect by this Invasion, from such as never admitted Bishops in their own Countries; or such, as when they had the Power here, gloried that they had extirpated Episcopal Government, Root and Branch.

What can you expect from such as assert the Doctrin of *Nonhabet*, and the Field-Conventiclers? who have since this Invasion, published their Declarations,

on, That if the Prince of *Orange* will himself take the Covenant, they will assist him, otherwise they judge his *Invasion* unlawful.

Is there no such thing as Allegiance, or is it to be divided? Will you deny your King the Prerogative of dispensing with Penal Laws, for the Ease even of such as you have declared you are willing to Indulge, and will you dispense with the Command of God Almighty, the Precepts of the Apostles, and the Canons of our Church; all which assert your Duty to your Sovereign.

Are not your Eyes yet open, to see that if you now renounce your Allegiance, you at once become Perjured before God and the World, and for ever deprive our Church of that Glory of Fidelity to our Sovereign: For which in former times, and the late Age, she hath been so Celebrated?

If you would prevent the effusion of Christian Blood, would see our Church flourish, and expect the Protection of the Almighty, you must use the most moving Oratory from your Pulpits, to animate the Subjects to defend our King; Pray fervently for his Success, Preach against Rebellion and Invasion, and exhort your Auditories to desist from the outragious, riotous pulling down of Popish Chapels, and inflame their Zeal to defend their King and Country, and even our Churches from unmerciful Invadors, that will with as much Fury, if they prevail, tear our Common-Prayer, and abolish our Worship, as their Brethren did in 1641.

It is to such only, who by Zeal or Inadvertency may bring us to that condition, that I offer this, never doubting but the Clergy of the true Church of *England* will adhere firmly to the King in this Juncture of Affairs.

To the Gentry.

YOU are the Persons most concerned in the Peace and Tranquillity of the Kingdom; what can be more destructive to you than a Civil War? By it you must endure the Plunder of your Goods, the depopulating your Towns, the destruction of your Tenents, and all the unspeakable Miseries you either saw, or your Fathers felt, and worse, if worse can be, will you undergo by the ravage of Forreigners, of unknown Language, and worse dispositions.

You and your Ancestors have known the benefit of the Monarchical Government, and the Devastations and Arbitrariness of a Commonwealth. The Prerogatives our Kings enjoy, secure you from the misery of Anarchy.

You know that the King is the Lawful Sovereign. Although the Prince be of the Blood Royal, yet he can have no shadow of Title to the Crown, so long as the King, or Prince of *Wales* live, or their Issue Male after them. By the Prince of *Orange's* usurping a Regal Stile, and commanding Obedience from the King's Subjects, you may foreknow what a sort of Protector you are like to have, if God for our wantonness under our present Gracious King, should give him any Territory to Rule in here. What just Laws can you expect from a Conqueror, when the Sword would entitle him to your Estates?

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Let no Lethargy poſſeſs you; you know the utmoſt of the King's Deſire is, that the Kingdom may flouriſh in Peace and Plenty, and that Liberty of Worſhip being once Eſtabliſhed, you and your Poſterity may enjoy perpetual Halcyon, and flouriſhing Days. Repel, or joyn not with thoſe that would deprive you of that durable Happineſs, and you have a King that will ſecure it to you, to your own Contentments.

Think with your ſelves what you may expect from ſuch Reformers as *Sir W. Waller*, and the reſt of that ravenous Crew, the Band of *Engliſh* and *Scotch* Fugitives? Are theſe like to preſerve the Monarchy, Liberty, or Property?

If theſe Conquer, the old Trade ſhall be ſet up, of Sequeſtring, decimating, ſearing your Perſons, ſeizing your Eſtates for Delinquency, erecting High Courts of Juſtice, and eſtabliſhing Major Generals, and forcing you by Monthly Aſſeſſments to maintain an Army to enſlave you.

To the Courageous Soldiery.

IT is to you next under God, the King, and his Subjects muſt own their Protection. If ever there was a juſt Cauſe to Arm for their Defence, you have unqueſtionably the beſt. You fight for your undoubted Lawful King, for your Native Country: The reſcuing of theſe from being a Prey to Forreigners, is the higheſt Prize can be ſet before you to whet your Courage.

Self-Preſervation makes the very Coward, the Weak, and Impotent reſiſt; how much more muſt you do it, who have the Guarding of all the King's Dominions, and in them of your ſelves, your Parents, Wives and Children, and all your fellow Subjects, of what Condition ſoever? Many of your Enemies are ſuch as you have ſubdued before, when you were far inferiour in Number. The reſt are ſuch as you have ſeen, how much you are able to outdo: Theſe are ſuch as the Sea hath delivered as a Wreck, and reſerved too, to be Conquered by your Valour, and to add Trophies to augment your Glory. You know your Honour as well as Safety is at ſtake, and experimentally know that in the day of Battle, the Valiant are leſs endangered than the Coward.

You have ſuch a King and General, as few Ages can Parallel, never did the greateſt Captain better provide for an Army. He hath, and will ſpend the greateſt part of his Revenue upon you, he Cheriſhed you in time of Peace, made you his ſpecial Care, and now you have a glorious Opportunity to ſignalize your Gratitude to him, and your own renown in this, and all Ages to come. Thoſe whom you now defend, even the whole People of his Majeſties Dominions, will heap upon you Wealth, and the whole Riches of your Enemies will be yours, and after you are adorned with Palms, and Crowned with Lawrels, you will be in a condition to requite your Perfidious Enemies in their own Country, and return loaden with the ſpoils of their Provinces.

I foreſee your Valour, and fortel your Victory. The Standard of your King is born with you, and by his Majeſties own Preſence, you will be inſpired with Reſolution

Resolution and Courage, beyond the expectations of any would. Here all down before you, Magnanimous Commanders, and most Valiant Soldiers, does your King now Command you, Whom Heaven hath Blessed with Victory, and his Bounty to you, as never any General did before. That every Town and Village may receive you with the utmost Expressions of Joy and Thankfulness, and all succeeding Ages may record the Wonders you have done, and the Peace and Prosperity you have by this Victory restored to all your Sovereigns Dominions.

POSTSCRIPT.

BE not discouraged most Valiant and Loyal Officers and Souldiers, at the late Treachery of some of your Body. It is happy for the King, since they were such pestilent Traytors, that the Plague-Sore is broke. It is now to be hoped the whole remainder of the Army will be perfectly sound; and being quit of the Poison, will with their utmost Vigor serve the King and their Country.

This whole Invasion hath been carried on with a most unnatural, unjust and treacherous Conduct. If these had concealed their Treason to the day of Battel, it might have been fatal to the King: But now you have them your open and detestable Enemies, with that guilt of Ingratitude, which must load and diffuse their Souls, that they will never be able to resist your just and vindicative Arms. There never was a Traytor, but he had a mixture of Coward; none being truly Valiant who have abandoned their Honour, which every Traytor hath done when he makes the first step towards his Treasonable Design.

Let this vile Act rouze your Indignation to the highest, let the sharpest edge upon and animate your Courage to the utmost degree that ever possessed the Valiant.

You brave Gentlemen that abandoned your Treacherous Companions, and have so gloriously signalized your Loyalty demonstrate, that the Infection had not so large a spread as some conceive or hope. You will repair the loss of your number by your Valour; and when you meet your perfidious Comrades, will let the World know what difference there is betwixt Treachery and Valour upon the Square.

This unparalled Baseness will create such an abhorrence in all Loyal Subjects, such a detestation of the Traytors, that it will gain the King many more Hands and Hearts than he hath lost by their Treachery.

This will arm every one with greater Diligence and Watchfulness over their Fellow Souldiers; and if there be any more Traytors, they will find no lurking places in the Army.

The Loyal Gentry of the Country, now satisfied that this is a *Dutch Invasion* for Conquest, will join their Arrear-Band of the Militia, to save their Royal Sovereign, and undauntedly follow the Example of those renowned Gentlemen of *Gloucester-shire*, and in every County Arm, to succour you to the utmost.

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